

HPS PTA 4-4-16. Highland Park School Media Center (Sean Webster taking notes for Jen Smyth)

Call to order @ 6:34pm by Grace

Attendance: Sean Webster, Kristin Cavallo, Brigitte Witkowski, Kim Churchill, Joanna Ali, Grace DeAngelis, Jen Stokes, Dawn M. Murphy, Heather Doucette, Kelly Pierce, Liliana Polley, Meghan McDowell-Vyse, Susan Jacobsen, May Corn, Caroline Beitman, Tracy Patterson

Guest Presentation 3rd grade teachers: Mrs. Thieling and Mr. Kavanaugh

Presented on Fact fluency. This has been the 3rd grade goal for the year. The goal of fact fluency is to be able to know math facts with automaticity (with speed and accuracy). The common core suggests 3 seconds for each fact. The overall goal is to develop a deeper understanding of math. They have many activities that help build fact fluency (fast math 2x a day, games, fact stations during workshop etc). Presented a short video of students in class working on fact fluency at workshop station. Presented an example of game played in class called "Facts Wars". PTA members played "Facts Wars" as Mrs. Thieling and Mr. Kavanaugh walked around and guided members through the game and explained how it can be used at home. Everyone was given a copy of the rules so it could be practiced at home. Both teachers teach math in the late morning before lunch which usually goes for about an hour. Mrs. Thieling likes to do fact fluency earlier in the morning to free up the specific math hour for other things to focus on. Each student gets about 60-75 minutes of math a day.

Question- When do you know when student meets their mastery - response- we give assessments throughout the year and the district has evaluations throughout the year as well. District evaluations sometimes are timed and sometimes aren't

Question-What is a number talk- answer- Mrs. Thieling uses this to kick off the day, can be a strategy or a topic or a game to get the math brain working.

Question- How does Envision play a role in math in class? - Mrs. Thieling/ Mr. K - really likes using envision and have been using it as a tool to help support students growth. Has great interactive videos that the kids really like using. There is also a feature called "solve and share" which is a problem presented to them prior to the lesson as a way to introduce the lesson.

Principal Report

Happy to announce two new staff members, 2nd grade instructor tutor David Moor and Behavior Tech Greg Scott for the building. David has already started in Mrs. Blume's class. Greg Scott will be starting April 18th. There will be information about his role coming out soon. He will be working with both teachers and students teaching restorative practices and helping support students who may be struggling.

Awareness days took place over the last few weeks and were received very well. All classes did something to celebrate the day and almost all students dressed to show their support.

Family math night will be in the next Husky Highlights. Reports say that the night was great.

Muffins for moms took place a few weeks ago and went really well with Krista Perkins to come and talk about the social thinking curriculum.

Testing has been going on for the past week and all testing has been going smoothly.

Goals for students to be at grade level from benchmark assessments at the end of the year:

- ELA goal was originally at 53% grade level expectations by May but we were at 54% by midyear so we adjusted to 60% grade level expectations by end of year
- Math goal was originally 42% grade level expectations by May but we were doing well at midyear so we adjusted to 66% grade level expectations by end of year

President Report

Calendar:

- Me and My Guy Dance is this going to be April 22nd. This is for any important male in a female students' life. Slips need to be ASAP but tickets can be bought day of dance.
- PTA board nominations- have a few people that have come forward and stated that they are interested in PTA board positions, no one has been confirmed yet but the plan is to hold a vote at the next PTA meeting. Jen and Grace have both said that they are happy to help with transition and support the new Board members.
- Teacher Appreciation Day- flyers should have come home today. Lunch is Tuesday May 3rd and Thursday May 5th is the breakfast.

Asked about the 5th grade Boston Field trip for next year. The school is working on what teachers will be able to chaperone the 5th grade trip.

Vice President Report

Fundraiser updates

- Butter braids made about \$700
- Adult social is this Thursday (4-7-16) from 6-8pm @ The Jacobsen's house.

Secretary report

Not presented due to Jen not being present.

Minutes had been passed out, reviewed, and approved by Caroline and Susan

Treasurer's report

Laura was unable to make it, will share with

SEPTA News

April 20th next meeting at Waddell with Sib Shop- child care. Working planning future events and organizing speakers. One of the SEPTA members spearheaded the Autism Awareness day.

Went over town wide PTA meeting on Bullying. There was a large group of teachers and staff as well as parents. State Dept. of Ed speaker was there and defined the difference between mean spirited behavior and bullying. Some parents walked away feeling that there was no real solution. There was hope to hear more about school climate but it was more focused on what's going on in other schools. Some felt a little put off that parents were asked to sit more towards the back.

This lead to into a talk about restorative justice and the steps the school is taking to support the students. Staff have had meetings and PD to get everyone on the same page on how to deal with behavioral issues. We have In-school/ out of school suspension, think sheets, restorative measures, we have collaborative approach (Ross Greene approach) as well as many others.

Open Topics

Field day Thursday June 2nd, rain date Friday June 3rd

Meeting adjured at 8:15pm by Grace due to time constraints.